COMMANDERS DIGEST

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FOUR-NATION CONFERENCE—U.S. Air Force Capt. Joseph A. Grimaud, (right), an F-105 Thunderchief pilot with the 388th Tactical Fighter Wing in Vietnam, talks with officers of the Royal Australian Air Force, Royal Thai Army and Royal Army (United Kingdom) during a recent SEATO senior officers' orientation course visit to Southeast Asia.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Hears Rusk on Economic, Military Aid

Secretary of State Dean Rusk has appeared before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in support of President Johnson's request for FY 69 appropriations for economic assistance and grant military assistance.

The request is for approximately $2.5 billion for economic assistance through the Agency for International Development and $420 million for grant military assistance through the Foreign Assistance Act.

Secretary Rusk said the major purposes of military assistance include:

- Strengthening the capability of selected allied and friendly nations against the threat of external attack.
- Helping developing countries protect their societies against internal violence, thus providing the framework of stability within which national development may thrive.

"This," he said, "is an austere program. It is concentrated on high priority needs in the Free World—85 percent of the present appropriation request for grant aid is for five 'forward defense' countries. The enactment of this program is important."

Earlier in the testimony, Secretary Rusk noted that this country's assistance to the developing countries is not to "buy friends." He said the purpose "is to help build free nations, increasingly able to meet the needs of their people.

"Today, most of the developing countries have moderate leaders committed to peaceful progress. And in

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DOD Orders Audit Of Food Service Posts For Possible Conversion

The Department of Defense has taken another step toward reducing military personnel requirements by prescribing uniform policies governing use of civilian resources to perform food service functions.

DOD Instruction 1120.8, "Use of Civilian Resources to Support the Military Food Service Program," requires an audit of all military food service positions (cooks, bakers, meat cutters, and administrative and managerial personnel) to determine the feasibility of using civilians in lieu of military personnel.

With limited exceptions, the instruction also eliminates the use of military personnel as KPs. Military personnel will continue to be used in positions that require them for reasons of law, training, security, discipline, rotation, or combat readiness.

The instruction states, "Conversions should be accomplished during FY 1968 and FY 1969 to the extent feasible." Present planning requires that, where possible, conversion to civilian staffing be scheduled for completion by June 30, 1970.

The number of personnel involved is not known; however, the instruction sets July 31, 1968 for the military departments to submit a report to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Installations and Logistics), Attn: Directorate for Food Service. The report will include an initial implementation plan showing:

- The numbers of military and civilian food service personnel required as of June 30, 1968.
- The number of military positions to be converted.

Chief of Naval Operations Cites Armed Forces Role In Helping to Build Stronger Civilian Community

The Chief of Naval Operations has told a Norfolk, Va., Civic Luncheon group that the armed services are in the forefront of the "equal opportunity" program and in many areas provide the fabric for a stronger community.

Admiral Thomas H. Moorer said, "The accepted concept of the serviceman's welfare explicitly includes the assurance of equal treatment and opportunity without regard to race, color, religion or national origin. We are, in the military, doing everything possible to assure that discrimination within the military service is eliminated."

Admiral Moorer told the group, "All of you together represent the invaluable segment of the American population whom I call the 'socially responsible.' These are the people in our country who, through a feeling of dedication, loyalty, and yes, enterprise, recognize the need to assume some responsibility for the progress and conduct of the society in which they live. They are 'movers' of our nation. As members of this group, each of you should be exceedingly proud—as should the people of your city whom you serve."

The admiral noted the "civic action" and "people-to-people" programs conducted by the armed forces, then added, "To a much greater and larger extent we are now concentrating on contributing directly to the American community. To re-coin a phrase, 'charity does indeed begin at home'."

Project 100,000

He explained that one project that starts at home is the Department of Defense's "Project 100,000," and by September, 1968, about 100,000 men will be taken into the military service. In the past these men would have been disqualified because of educational deficiencies or correctable physical defects. "We are proving that they can qualify as fully satisfactory servicemen if exposed to modern instructional techniques, and that they can be returned to civilian life as productive members of society with vastly improved lifetime earning potential and increased personal integrity."

Adm. Moorer

On another DOD program, "Project Transition," the admiral said it is estimated, of the 750,000 men who leave active duty each year, as many as 20 percent may participate in this training.

Project Transition

Project Transition provides in-service training and educational opportunities for non-career servicemen to enhance their chances for employment in civilian life.

The "Transition" program provides a comprehensive counseling schedule; a skill training program for civilian-related jobs; an opportunity for the completion of the equivalency of a high school education; a placement program to relate the training received to actual job opportunities available; and an evaluation program to follow-up on individuals after they leave the service to determine the effectiveness of the training.

Admiral Moorer mentioned the "President's Youth Opportunity Program" and participation of the armed forces.

He noted that the Department of Defense has the largest educational complex the world has ever known. He said the services provide enlisted men with professional training in about 1500 different skills in more than 2000 separate courses. In addition, 65,000 officers a year are actively pursuing their professional education.

Education Benefits

"The impact of this educational system is revealed in the fact that an annual average of 95,000 young men and women who enter the service without a high school diploma earn a diploma or its equivalent while in uniform.

"While it is obvious that this immense educational complex exists to satisfy the needs of the Defense Department it nevertheless is equally obvious what a gigantic education "spin-off" it provides for American society as a whole."

In conclusion, Admiral Moorer said, "If you and I continue to support the ideas, programs, and means to keep the faith in ourselves and our fellow men growing—we will live to see an even better America, and a truly enlightened society."

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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OUR OBLIGATIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA*

Southeast Asia remains for the United States a test of the viability of our collective defense policy. Here in close proximity to Red China lie a number of small, non-Communist states, each of which in its own way is striving to maintain its freedom and independence.

The confusion and discord within the Communist camp is well illustrated in this region. The U.S.S.R. is nominally joined with the Peking regime in supporting Hanoi's operations against South Vietnam, but each of the major Communist powers is seeking to prevent the other from gaining dominance in Hanoi, while North Vietnam itself probably wishes to fall under the dominance of neither.

It is thus possible that Moscow, Peking and Hanoi all disagree as to what the future shape of Southeast Asia should be, yet these disagreements have allowed Hanoi —while pursuing its drive to conquer the South—to play the Soviet Union off against China for material assistance. Thus while polycentrism within the Communist World is generally a welcome development, there will be cases, as in Vietnam, where it may intensify our problems rather than ease them.

The Soviet leadership may now believe that North Vietnam will be an outpost for their more pragmatic form of Marxism, to serve as a buffer hemming in the doctrinaire zealots of Peking. If this is their calculation, they are playing a dangerous game. A Communist victory in South Vietnam would erode the position of all of the non-Communist states in Southeast Asia, and the chief beneficiary would be China—not the Soviet Union.

Such a victory would be seen as a triumph for the Chinese militancy and as a vindication of her position in the ideological dispute with the Soviet Union. And, in contrast to North Korea, which borders both, Southeast Asia is separated from the Soviet Union by the great land mass of China. It is, therefore, unlikely that the Soviets could long maintain a special position in that area in defiance of China.

But our real concern is not over which of the two rivals emerges dominant. Our concern is that no great power dominate the area. The United States has no desire to compete with either the Soviet Union or Red China for hegemony in Southeast Asia, or to achieve any special position there.

U.S. Interest in the Pacific

This is not to say that we are indifferent to what transpires on the other side of the Pacific Ocean. Whether we like it or not, we are a Pacific Ocean state. Our west coast borders on the Pacific and our 50th State lies halfway across that ocean. Moreover, we have important historical ties and treaty commitments to many of the nations in the Western Pacific. So, we have a vital strategic interest in that area, an interest that we cannot ignore.

It has been alleged by some commentators that the Administration, last fall, changed its rationale for our military involvement in Southeast Asia—that we are now emphasizing the importance of Southeast Asia to our own security, whereas earlier we had said that we entered the conflict to honor the commitments of four Presidents, to protect the freedom and independence of the people of South Vietnam, and to ensure their right to decide their own destiny.

The fact is that all of these reasons have been involved all along; no one is exclusively determining, as we have repeatedly tried to make clear. The important point is that all of the reasons we have given for our involvement in the Southeast Asian conflict are directly derived from a single basic policy, which is collective security. We are fighting there for the right of nations to live in freedom and independence, unmolested by their neighbors and free of fear of domination or attack by any of the great powers.

It is from this right that our own security derives, and it is precisely the objective of our collective defense policy in all parts of the world. Not to honor our commitments in South Vietnam would thus cast doubt on our determination to honor our commitments elsewhere in the world.

Independence of Southeast Asia

I believe that over the long run a truly independent Southeast Asia would best serve the interests of all the nations involved. It would remove one more source of strife between the outside world and the Communist camp, and within the latter as well. Moreover, it would create the kind of environment required for the rapid development of the region's basically rich natural resources, to the benefit of all.

This vision of a peaceful and more prosperous order in Southeast Asia is shared by our friends and allies in the Western Pacific. I am sure that you have noticed an increased appreciation among the leaders of Asian and Pacific nations for the contribution which our efforts in Southeast Asia are making to their own freedom and independence. And, all of these leaders—and those of many other non-Communist nations—are firm in their support for our goals and objectives in Southeast Asia. There can be no doubt but that this trend is directly related to our determination to fulfill our obligations in that area and to a rising confidence among Asian leaders that we will persist in that determination.

** Excerpts from the recent Defense Posture Statement by the Secretary of Defense before the Senate Armed Services Committee.*

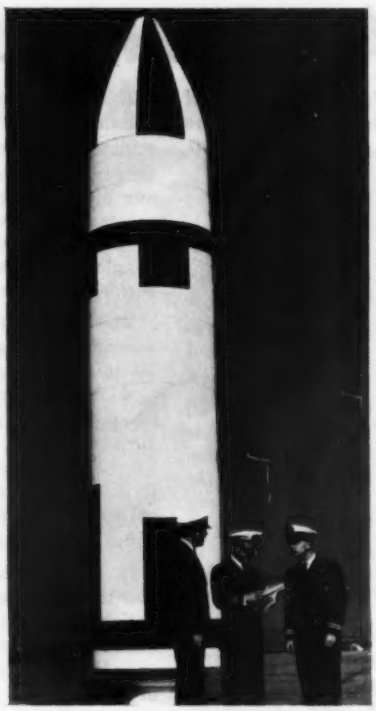
Navy Awards Contract For Poseidon Missile

A $456.1 million contract for development and production of the Poseidon (C-3) missile system has been awarded by the Navy to the Lockheed Missiles and Space Co., of Sunnyvale, Calif.

The Poseidon, like the current Polaris system, is a two-stage solid propellant missile designed to be launched from a submerged fleet ballistic submarine. The new missile will be outfitted with multiple warheads, each of which can be separately targeted, helping to assure Poseidon's ability to penetrate enemy defenses.

Development of the Poseidon was announced by President Johnson in January 1965, and production was authorized in December 1966. Total cost of development and production of the new missile system is estimated at approximately $1.2 billion and will carry through 1971.

Present plans call for 31 of the Navy's current 41 ballistic missile submarines to be outfitted with the Poseidon missile system. The first FBM submarine scheduled for retrofit, the USS Madison, will enter a shipyard in 1969 for modification of its launch tubes and outfitting with improved navigation and fire control systems.



POSEIDON MOCK-UP—A 34-foot full-scale mock-up of the Navy's new Poseidon Missile dwarfs the Navy men in the foreground. The mock-up was set up at the Navy Exhibit Center in Washington, D.C. in December 1966.

Secretary Rusk on Foreign Aid

(Continued from Page 1)

most parts of the developing world, governments committed to orderly economic and social progress have been successful in suppressing or fending off the promoters of violent revolution. But moderate leaders who believe in peaceful progress cannot be expected to endure unless they produce results—unless their peoples make tangible economic and social progress.

". . . I believe it is clearly in the interest of the United States to assist those who are committed to peaceful progress."

Secretary Rusk pointed out military aid has been reduced sharply, while long-range development aid has risen.

"At the beginning of this decade," he said, "nearly half of the foreign aid funds went for military equipment and training, and about half of the economic aid was for defense support. Today, supporting assistance, despite the abnormal requirement in Vietnam, amounts to less than one-fourth of the AID budget request. Grant military assistance, excluding requirements for Vietnam, Thailand and Laos, has been cut to less than one-fourth of the 1961 and 1962 levels.

"The cost of aid programs to our balance of payments has been largely eliminated. Military and Food for Freedom programs have never caused a significant balance of payments drain."

Travel Ruling Change Gives Reserve Members Parity on Allowances

Members of reserve components called to active duty for periods not exceeding 20 weeks are now entitled to the same travel allowances formally granted only to full-time members of the armed forces.

Under Per Diem, Travel and Transportation Committee Joint Determination 11-68, which establishes the reserve member's home address as his "permanent duty station," reservists or members of the National Guard called to active duty or active duty for training with pay are entitled to travel and transportation allowances for:

(1) Travel to, and from, the active duty (or active duty for training) station;

(2) Travel required in connection with qualifying examinations or conditions precedent to performance of such duty, and

(3) While at the active duty (or active duty for training) station, except while on active duty for training (other than a course of instruction) when both government mess and quarters are available.

Personnel called to active duty without pay are eligible for all travel and transportation allowances except per diem.

Reserve members called to active duty for periods longer than 20 weeks are entitled to all travel allowances except per diem while assigned to their primary duty station. However, if ordered to temporary or temporary additional duty at another station and in a "paid status," the reservist is eligible for per diem.

Exempt under Joint Determination 11-68 are personnel assigned to an active duty station within the corporate limits of the town or city in which they reside. Futher, personnel are not entitled to travel allowances for any inactive training in the city or town in which the headquarters of their reserve components are located.

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